

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LENINGRAD 0260

EO 11652GDS

TAGS: PINS, SREF, CVIS, US, UR

SUBJ: EMIGRATION CASE OF FELIX ARONOVICH

REF: LENINGRAD 0237, LENINGRAD 0193,

1. POLOFF AGAIN VISITED FELIX ARONOVICH EVENING OF FEBRUARY 18. HIS SITUATION REMAINS ONE OF HOPEFUL WAITING. ON NEGATIVE SIDE, ARONOVICH RECEIVED "SEVERE REPRIMAND" FROM HIS PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT FOR BEING ABSENT FROM WORK ON JANUARY 29, THE DAY OF HIS ATTEMPTED VISIT TO CONGEN AND SUBSEQUENT DETENTION BY MILITIA. EMPLOYER BASED REPRIMAND ON FACT THAT ARONOVICH FAILED TO ASK PERMISSION TO LEAVE WORK. ARONOVICH HAS CHALLENGED RECEIPT OF REPRIMAND IN ACCORDANCE WITH HIS RIGHTS AS MEMBER OF TRADE UNION AND INTENDS TO ASSERT THAT HE WAS REQUESTED ON PHONE TO VISIT CONGEN. ARONOVICH BELIEVES REPRIMAND BASED ON FAILURE TO REQUEST PERMISSION FOR ABSENCE RATHER THAN ACTUAL FACT OF ABSENCE IN ORDER TO FINESSE MATTER OF MILITIA'S DETENTION. HE ALSO BELIEVES REPRIMAND MAY BE FIRST STEP IN DISMISSAL FROM EMPLOYMENT, A PATTERN OFTEN USED WITH REFUSENIKS.

2. ARONOVICH CORRECTED HIMSELF AND NOTED THAT DIPLOMATIC AGENCY OFFICIAL WITH WHOM HE HAS BEEN DEALING IS NOT RPT
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NOT CHERNOV, BUT NIKOLAY GRISHIN. GRISHIN IS "JUNIOR

MEMBER" OF DIPLOMATIC AGENCY, NOMINALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR PRESS AFFAIRS. ARONOVICH SAID HE HAD AGAIN SPOKEN WITH GRISHIN. GRISHIN WAS EXTREMELY POLITE, ASSURED ARONOVICH THAT HIS CASE WAS STILL BEING CONSIDERED, AND ASKED HIM TO BE PATIENT. GRISHIN ASKED THAT ARONOVICH CALL HIM TO "LET HIM KNOW" AS SOON AS O VIR GIVES ITS ALLEGEDLY FORTHCOMING RESPONSE.

3. ARONOVICH STILL BELIEVES THERE MAY BE SOME REASON TO HOPE FOR FAVORABLE O VIR ACTION AND HE IS PHILOSOPHICAL ABOUT RECEIVING REPRIMAND FROM EMPLOYER. ARONOVICH, A QUIET BUT DETERMINED MAN, SAID HE DISCUSSED CIRCUMSTANCES OF REPRIMAND WITH AN OFFICIAL OF THE DZERZHINSKIY RAYON PARTY COMMITTEE WHO TOLD HIM BY ALL MEANS TO PROCEED WITH TRADE UNION PROCEDURE FOR CHALLENGING ACTION.

4. CONGEN BELIEVES TIME HAS COME TO WEIGH IN WITH DIPLOMATIC AGENCY REGARDING ARONOVICH'S CASE. WE PROPOSE TO DO SO IN POSITIVE VEIN RATHER THAN AS PROTEST IN VIEW OF ARONOVICH'S DESIRE TO AVOID EXACERBATION OF CASE DURING PRESENT PERIOD OF POSSIBLE RECONSIDERATION. CONGEN JUST RECENTLY RECEIVED POUCHED COPY OF EURXSOV' REPLY TO MRS. DINENZON, ARONOVICH'S MOTHER, ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT. IF DEPARTMENT CONCURS, CONGEN PROPOSES TO USE THIS AS BASIS FOR SENDING BRIEF LETTER TO DIPLOMATIC AGENCY, NOTING USG INTEREST IN CASE ON BEHALF OF U.S.-RESIDENT MOTHER AND EXPRESSING HOPE THAT FAMILY CAN BE REUNITED SOON. GROUNDS FOR THIS, OF COURSE, STEM FROM ARONOVICH'S REAPPLICATION FOR UNITED STATES VICE ISRAEL. CONGEN BELIEVES THIS APPROACH WOULD ILLUSTRATE OUR CONTINUING INTEREST IN CASE WITHOUT COMPLICATING ARONOVICH'S SITUATION. HOWEVER, CONGEN STILL INTENDS IN DUE COURSE TO RAISE ARONOVICH'S DETENTION AND CHALLENGE MILITIA'S LINE THAT DIPLOMATIC AGENCY HAS VOICE IN DETERMINING WHO CAN VISIT CONGEN.

5. PLEASE ADVISE RE PROPOSED LETTER TO DIPLOMATIC AGENCY.

NEUBERT

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